

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00404 211713Z

46

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 NRC-05 USIE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /091 W

----- 091715

O P 211619Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1708

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0404

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS OF JULY 20, 1976

1. IN THE JULY 20 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE FRG REP, NETHERLANDS REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND TARASOV, GDR REP OESER, AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP LAHODA.

2. THE SESSION, THE LAST OF THE ROUND, WAS UNEVENTFUL. WESTERN REPS SAID THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE EASTERN RESPONSE THUS FAR TO THE WESTERN DECEMBER 16 PROPOSALS, AND THAT EASTERN COMMENTS DURING THE ROUND HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE EAST HAD FAILED TO CARRY OUT A THOROUGH EVALUATION OF THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE PROPOSALS. THEY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR, POINTED OUT THAT THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00404 211713Z

EASTERN PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 19 DID NOT REPRESENT A MOVE

TOWARDS MAJOR WESTERN INTERESTS AS REGARDS EITHER REDUCTIONS OR PHASING AND SAID THAT THE EAST WAS ASKING TOO MUCH OF THE WEST AND IGNORING THE REALITIES OF THE PRESENT SECURITY SITUATION AS THEY AFFECTED CENTRAL EUROPE.

3. EASTERN REPS CLAIMED THAT THE EAST HAD MOVED IN THE PRESENT ROUND THROUGH TABLING DATA AND THE WEST HAD NOT MADE A MOVE. THEY STRESSED THE MERITS OF THE EASTERN FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL AND REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO CRITICISM OF THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND CANADA TO PROVIDE "EFFECTIVE GUARANTEES" THAT THEY WOULD REDUCE FORCES IN A SECOND STAGE. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED EXPECTATION THAT WEST WOULD TABLE DATA SOON. THEY CLAIMED FORCES OF EAST AND WEST WERE IN BALANCE AND THAT WESTERN THEORITICS OF DISPARITIES WERE ARTIFICIALLY CONSTRUCTED TO JUSTIFY ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS.

4. CZECHOSLOVAK REP OPENED SESSION WITH EASTERN EVALUATION OF NINTH ROUND. HE CALIMED THE EAST AHD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO MAKE A SERIES OF SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO BRING ABOUT PROGRESS IN THE TALKS, INCLUDING TABLING OF EASTERN DATA ON JUNE 10, AND THAT THE FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL REPRESENTED A PRACTICAL BASIS FOR AGREEMENT WHICH MET WESTERN INTERESTS ON PHASING. HE CHARGED THAT THE UNWILLINGNESS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO ASSUME EFFECTIVE GUARANTEES FOR REDUCTIONS IN A SECOND STAGE WAS A MAIN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS.

5. US REP POINTED OUT THAT EAST HAD CONTINUED TO FAIL TO MAKE A PROPER EVALUATION OF MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTERN DECEMBER 16 PROPOSAL. GDR REP CRITICIZED WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH, WHICH HE CLAIMED WOULD RESULT IN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE FOR NATO COUNTRIES, INTER ALIA BECAUSE OF WESTERN INSISTENCE ON REDUCTION BY UNITS FOR THE EAST WHILE CLAIMING FREEDOM TO REDUCE WESTERN FORCES BY INDIVIDUALS. HE AGAIN CRITICIZED NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS FOR FAILURE TO UNDETAKE COMMITMENTS.

6. FRG REP PRESENTED FULL REVIEW OF WESTERN VIEWS ON GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES. IN A LENGTHY BUT POORLY REASONED REPLY KHLESTOV CLAIMED THE EAST HAD ALREADY REFUTED THIS WESTERN POSITION, BUT THEN FELL BACK ON STATEMENT THAT THE EAST WOULD ONCE AGAIN ADDRESS THIS ISSUE FULLY IN THE NEXT ROUND. KHLESTOV

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00404 211713Z

CLAIMED THAT THE EAST HAD MOVED IN THE PAST ROUND BUT WEST HAD NOT.

7. NETHERLANDS REP PRESENTED WESTERN CRITICISM OF EASTERN FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL AS NOT MEETING ESSENTIAL WESTERN INTERESTS ON PHASING. GDR REP AGAIN CLAIMED WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WERE DEPARTING FROM DECISIONS REACHED IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS ADN STRESSED NEED FOR NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS

TO ASSUME AN OBLIGATION PROVIDING FOR SPECIFIC TIMING
OF THEIR STAGE TWO REDUCTIONS.

8. US REP GAVE A SHORT REVIEW OF COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS THUS
FAR, STATING THAT THEY INDICATED THE EAST WAS ASKING FOR TOO
MUCH AND FAR MORE THAN REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE ACTUAL
SITUATION JUSTIFIED. THE EAST WAS ASKING THE WEST TO IGNORE
THE FACT OF EASTERN SUPERIORITY INSIDE THE REDUCTION AREA
AND, BEYOND THAT, THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET UNION, ONE OF THE WORLD'S
TWO LEADING MILITARY POWERS, WAS LOCATED DIRECTLY NEXT TO
THE REDUCTION AREA AND THAT ITS FORCES WOULD NOT BE LIMITED
IN SIZE. HE ASKED EASTERN REPS TO MAKE A MORE REALISTIC
ASSESSMENT DURING THE RECESS OF WHAT WAS POSSIBLE IN THE VIENNA
TALKS IN PRACTICAL TERMS. END SUMMARY.
REMAINDER OF REPORT SENT VIA AIRGRAM.RESOR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MBFRV00404
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760280-0969
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760737/aaaabggz.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS OF JULY 20, 1976
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006